

Kinship Caregiver's Declaration of Responsibility for a Minor's Health Care

I Declare That:

Minor's Information:

1. I consent to health care for the child: _____
(print name of the child)

2. The child's date of birth is: _____

Caregiver's Information:

3. My name is: _____
(print your name)

4. My home address is: _____

5. I am 18 years of age or older and I am a relative responsible for the health care of the minor.

6. My date of birth is: _____

7. I am the _____ of the minor.
(print your relationship to the child, e.g. grandparent, aunt/uncle)

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that the above is true and correct.

Date: _____ City and State: _____

Signature of Caregiver: _____

Free Publications

Relatives as Parents: A Resource Guide for Relatives Raising Children in Washington State (DSHS 22-996x) is a valuable resource guide for all relative caregivers. The booklet helps Washington State families find the services, support and information they need while raising a relative's child.

Did You Know: About the Following Services and Supports for Grandparents and Relatives Raising Children? (DSHS 22-1120x) is a four page booklet listing the various resources, benefits and support services available to relatives through the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) and other agencies. This publication is also available in Cambodian, Chinese, Korean, Laotian, Russian, Spanish, Vietnamese or English on the Aging and Disability Services Administration's website at: www.adsa.dshs.wa.gov/Library/publications/.

To order either of these booklets, go to www.prt.wa.gov and click on "General Store" or call the Department of Printing at 360-586-6360.

Consent to Health Care for the Child in Your Care



A Kinship Caregiver's Guide

As a kinship caregiver, can I consent to health care for a child in my care?

Yes. A law (SHB 1281) passed in 2005 in the Washington State legislature allows kinship caregivers to consent to health care for a child when the parents are not available - even if he/she does not have legal custody.* As a kinship caregiver, you may consent to health care for a minor child if you are an adult and:

- have a signed authorization from the child's parent to make health care decisions for the child;
- are a relative responsible for the health care of the child; or
- are a relative caregiver who has signed and dated a declaration (RCW 7.70.065).

What is a declaration?

A declaration is a dated and signed written document that states certain information is true. As an adult kinship caregiver, you can sign a declaration saying you are a relative responsible for the health care of a minor child.

Although a signed declaration is not required under the law, health care providers may require it. A sample declaration can be found in this brochure or downloaded off the internet at: www.washingtonlawhelp.org. You may use this sample form or write a declaration of your own.

Keep in mind a declaration is “under the penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington”. Signing a declaration that you know to be false is a Class B felony.

How long is the declaration good for and what should I do if it expires?

A declaration is only good for six months from the date that it is signed. After six months, the declaration expires. You must then fill out and sign another declaration.

Does signing a declaration mean that I have legal custody of the child?

No. Signing the declaration only allows you to consent to health care for the child. The declaration has no effect on legal custody of the child or the legal rights of the parents.



What should I do if a health care provider asks for additional proof that I am a relative responsible for the child's health care?

Under the new law, a provider may ask for proof that shows you are responsible for the child's health care. If this happens, the following items may be useful:

- (1) A will that lists your relationship to the child.
- (2) A letter from a social worker, school personnel, lawyer, religious leader, or a licensed medical, mental health, or behavioral professional that shows your relationship to the child.
- (3) Records from a school, hospital, clinic, or other public health or social service agency that shows your relationship to the child.
- (4) Proof that you receive a public benefit, such as TANF, SSI, medical coupons, food stamps, or free/reduced school lunch on behalf of the child.
- (5) Records from the Department of Social and Health Services that show that you are the contact for the child.
- (6) Proof that a child lives in your apartment or other housing and is related to you.
- (7) Insurance for you or the child that states your relationship.
- (8) Your Federal Income Tax return in which the child was listed.
- (9) Any other documents that show your relationship with the child and indicate that you are the caregiver for that child.

Where can I get help?

There are several organizations that offer free legal information and referrals over the phone and/or information on the internet.

For more information

The Coordinated Legal Education, Advice and Referral (CLEAR)

If you are under 60 and low-income, call **1-888-201-1014****.

If you are over 60 at any income level, call CLEAR toll-free at **1-888-387-7111**.

You can download a sample of the declaration at:
www.washingtonlawhelp.org

The Northwest Women's Law Center

Call **206-621-7692** (for both women and men)

Visit the website at:
www.nwwlc.org/

* Relative caregivers involved with Children's Administration still must have a court order to consent to surgery for a child placed with them through the Division of Children and Family Services.

** Not available in King County. King County residents should call 206-464-1519 for information and referral.